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REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Of these, claims 1, 4-7 and 9-12 are being amended. The amendments are fully supported by the originally filed specification and drawings. Entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the case in light of the present arguments is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 1, 9 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Applicant furthermore appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 2-8 and 10-11 would be allowable if re-written to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of their basic claims.

Objection to Abstract

The Examiner objected to the abstract because of the phrase "comprising." The abstract is being amended to recite "having" in place of "comprising," and thus the abstract should no longer be objected to.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph of Claims 1-12

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is traversed.

The Examiner stated that claims 1-12 are "incomplete because steps of cleaning residues from the surface have not been recited." Claim 1 is being amended to recite "whereby the process residues are at least partially cleaned from the surface of

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the substrate processing chamber component." Thus, as this claim clearly recites that process residues are being cleaned from the surface, claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom should not be rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Similar amendments are being made to claims 9 and 12 to clearly recite cleaning residues from a surface, and thus these claims and the claims depending therefrom are also in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner further stated that claims 1-4 were "indefinite in the recitation of "non-reactive gas," because "it is not clear if it refers to non reactive with respect to the chamber or to the substrate." MPEP 2173.02 states that "the test for definiteness under 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph, is whether 'those skilled in the art would understand what is claimed when the claim is read in light of the specification.'" The specification clearly states in the first full paragraph on page 5 that "the non-reactive gas is a gas that does not react with the component surfaces or the acidic solution in which the component 15 is immersed." Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would understand from the specification that the non-reactive gas is a gas that does not react with the component surface. Examples of such non-reactive gases given in the specification include nitrogen and argon. Thus, claims 1-4 distinctly point out and claim the subject matter of the invention, and claims 1-4 are not indefinite under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner also rejected claim 4 for lacking proper antecedent basis for the phrase "the flow rate," and claims 5 and 6 for lacking proper antecedent basis for the phrase "the concentration." Claim 4 is being amended to recite "a flow rate" and claims 5 and 6 are being amended to recite "a concentration." Thus, the proper antecedent basis for the terms is being provided, and the claims 4-6 should not be rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner rejected claims 7 and 11 because the Examiner believed that the phrase "in the non-reactive gas is nitrogen" was an "indefinite and confusing term." These claims are being amended to recite "wherein the non-reactive gas is

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"nitrogen," and thus the claims are now clear and definite under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 9 and 12 for lack of antecedent basis for the phrase "the surface." The claims are being amended to recite "a surface," and thus proper antecedent basis for this phrase is being provided and the claims should no longer be rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

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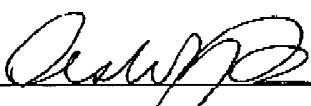
CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance.
Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the above remarks, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

JANAH & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Date: May 4, 2004

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